

## **Public utility water service for the operation of geothermal heat pumps**

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SB 744 by Cain (Holzheuser)

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DIGEST:	<p>SB 744 would have allowed a retail public utility to provide nonconsumptive water service for the operation of a geothermal heat pump that circulates the water in a closed loop and returns it to the water main. The utility, which would be immune from civil liability arising from the installation or use of a heat pump, could have charged a reasonable fee for the installation, inspection and operation of the heat pump.</p> <p>The bill would also have allowed local governments to enter into contracts for energy conservation measures to reduce energy consumption or operating costs of governmental facilities.</p>
GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO:	<p>"Senate Bill 744 allows public water to be used in geothermal heat pumps and then returned to the public water supply. The potential risk of public water contamination is too great to allow this without further research."</p>
RESPONSE:	<p>Neither Sen. David Cain, the author of SB 744, nor Rep. Steve Holzheuser, the House sponsor, had a comment.</p>
NOTES:	<p>SB 744 was analyzed in Part Three of the May 17 <i>Daily Floor Report</i>.</p>